

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 /121 R

DRAFTED BYEUR/P:MWJERABEK/VRM

APPROVED BY CWG:WKONTOS

S/S-O - R. KUCHEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE

INFO USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH

EUCOM

UNCLAS STATE 159834

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CY

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - CYPRUS

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT NOON PRESS BRIEFING
JULY 23 DEALING WITH THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS.

QUOTE

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT IN
CYPRUS, REPLACEMENT OF SAMPSON BY CLERIDES?

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A: NO. WE HAVE SEEN THE SAME REPORTS THAT YOU HAVE. I
HAVE NO COMMENT WHATSOEVER ON THIS.

Q: DO WE RECOGNIZE THE NEW GOVERNMENT?

A: I HAVE NO COMMENT AT ALL ON THIS.

Q: WELL, IS THAT THE SORT OF THING THAT WE ARE AFTER IN OUR RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS?

A: I JUST DON'T WANT TO GET INTO IT AT THIS STAGE.

Q: WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION FROM CYPRUS, FROM AMBASSADOR DAVIES THAT THERE IS A CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT?

A: WE HAVE HAD SOME REPORTS FROM OUR EMBASSY IN NICOSIA. I DO NOT WANT TO GET INTO ANY OF THE REPORTS WE HAVE HAD FROM OUR EMBASSY.

Q: ON ANOTHER MATTER, DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT A CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT MAY BE AT HAND IN GREECE?

A: WELL, WE HAVE BEEN READING ABOUT THE VARIOUS REPORTS AND RUMORS, I THINK, FOR ABOUT THE PAST WEEK HERE ON THIS. THE SECRETARY ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO HIS SUBJECT YESTERDAY. I HAVE SEEN THE REPORTS AND THE TICKERS THIS MORNING. I HAVE NO COMMENT AT ALL.

Q: SOME FIGHTING SEEMS TO BE CONTINUING IN CYPRUS. IS THERE A CONCERN THAT A CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT IN GREECE MIGHT AFFECT THE ABILITY OF THE CEASE-FIRE TO HOLD?

A: ON THAT, AS WE HAVE ALL SEEN, THERE OBVIOUSLY HAVE BEEN VIOLATIONS OF THE CEASE-FIRE ON CYPRUS. WHETHER ANY SITUATION IN GREECE WOULD HAVE AN EFFECT ON WHETHER THE CEASE-FIRE WILL HOLD OR NOT, I DON'T WANT TO SPECULATE. WE STILL EXPECT THAT THE CEASE-FIRE WILL TAKE HOLD. AND YOU KNOW ABOUT THE VIOLATIONS JUST AS WELL AS WE DO. THERE HAS BEEN A PROBLEM OUT AT THE NICOSIA AIRPORT, AND THE U.N. FORCES ARE TRYING TO CALM THAT

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SITUATION DOWN, AND THERE IS SOME FIGHTING UP ON THE NORTHERN BEACHES AROUND KYRENIA. AND WE HOPE THAT, AND EXPECT THAT, THAT WILL CALM DOWN.

Q: HAVE WE ASKED FOR, OR DO WE HAVE, NEW COMMITMENTS FROM THE GREEK AND TURKISH GOVERNMENTS, THAT THEY HAVE ORDERED THEIR FORCES TO OBEY THE CEASE-FIRE?

A: LET ME JUST SAY THAT YESTERDAY AFTERNOON AND LAST EVENING, THE SECRETARY WAS IN TOUCH WITH THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER AND THE GREEK PRIME MINISTER, AS WELL AS WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN, AND HE SAW THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR HERE IN THE DEPARTMENT LATE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, AND OBVIOUSLY ALL OF THESE PARTIES ARE TRYING TO DO

EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO TRY AND CALM THE SITUATION DOWN.

Q: AS FAR AS THAT MEETING IN GENEVA TOMORROW IS CONCERNED, IS THAT STILL ON SCHEDULE?

A: WE HOPE THAT IT WILL TAKE PLACE TOMORROW. ON THAT, THE ONE THING I CAN GIVE YOU, BILL BUFFUM, OUR ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS, IS LEAVING TONIGHT FOR LONDON, AND IN LONDON HE WILL BE MEETING WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN AND OTHER BRITISH OFFICIALS. AND THEN THE PLAN IS FOR MR. BUFFUM

TO GO TO GENEVA. AS THE SECRETARY MENTIONED YESTERDAY, WE ARE NOT A PARTY TO THE NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA, BECAUSE WE ARE NOT ONE OF THE THREE GUARANTOR POWERS, BUT MR. BUFFUM WILL BE THERE TO BE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE PARTIES DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS. WE STILL HOPE THAT, AS THE SECRETARY SAID YESTERDAY, THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT START TOMORROW.

Q: THERE WAS A REPORT THIS MORNING ON THIS THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD SAID THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE UNITED STATES PARTICIPATE IN THE TALKS ON AN EQUAL BASIS WITH THE OTHER THREE. IF SUCH AN INVITATION WERE TO COME, COULD YOU IMAGINE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ACCEPTING THE INVITATION TO BE A DIRECT PARTNER?

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A: I WILL BE VERY HONEST WITH YOU. I WAS UNAWARE OF THIS SPECIFIC PROPOSAL, AND I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE ROLE OF MR. BUFFUM WOULD CHANGE IN GENEVA, AND WE WOULD BECOME A PARTY TO THE TALKS OR NOT. I AM JUST UNAWARE OF THAT REPORT. AS FAR AS I KNOW, AS OF NOW, MR. BUFFUM'S ROLE WILL BE IN GENEVA AS I JUST EXPLAINED IT.

Q: WOULD YOU CALL HIM AN OBSERVER?

A: THE REASON I AM HESITATING HERE IS I DON'T KNOW WHETHER HE WILL BE AN OBSERVER IN THE FORMAL SENSE OF THAT WORD, I.E., IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, SITTING AT THE TABLE, JUST BEING AN OBSERVER, OR WHETHER HE WILL JUST BE AVAILABLE OUTSIDE TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS THAT MAY ARISE WITH THE PARTIES. I JUST AM NOT SURE.

Q THERE IS A REPORT THAT TURKEY MAY NOT GO TO THIS CONFERENCE TOMORROW BECAUSE THEY ARE VERY UPSET ABOUT REPORTS OF ALLEGED GENOCIDE AGAINST TURKISH COMMUNITIES IN CYPRUS.

A: AS FAR AS I KNOW, THE TURKISH REPRESENTATIVE IS

PLANNING TO GO. I CAN'T TELL YOU WHETHER IT WILL BE TOMORROW OR NOT. WE HOPE THAT IT WILL BE TOMORROW.

Q: THE REPORT WAS THAT IT MIGHT BE POSTPONED, WHILE THESE COMPLAINTS ARE BEING FOLLOWED THROUGH.

A: I AM UNAWARE OF ANY ---

Q: ONE OTHER THING. THE TURKISH DEPUTY PREMIER IS BEING QUOTED AS SUPPORTING THE PARTITION OF CYPRUS. CAN YOU SAY THAT THE U.S. POSITION IS STILL THE ONE STATED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER YESTERDAY ON THAT?

A: YES.

Q: YESTERDAY WE WERE TOLD THAT THE U.N. WAS SEEKING AN ADDITIONAL 500 TROOPS FOR THE UNFICYP, AND THERE IS A REPORT FROM THE U.N. TODAY THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL UNCLASSIFIED

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WANTS TO DOUBLE THE FORCE. CAN YOU TELL US WHICH OF THESE TWO VERSIONS IS CORRECT?

A: I DO NOT KNOW WHICH IS CORRECT. I AM SURE THAT IT IS MORE THAN THE 500 FIGURE, BUT I DO NOT HAVE THE EXACT FIGURE, AND ON THAT, WE SUPPORT THE U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL'S DESIRE TO INCREASE HIS FORCE. BUT I CANNOT RECALL THE EXACT NUMBER. I DID READ SOMEWHERE WHERE IT SAID "DOUBLED." BUT WE DO SUPPORT HIS DESIRE TO INCREASE THE FORCE.

Q: COULD WE GO BACK TO AN EARLIER QUESTION? IF YOU COULD GIVE US AN IDEA OF THE THINKING UPSTAIRS WHETHER THE UNITED STATES COULD IMAGINE ITSELF GETTING INVOLVED AS A PARTNER, OR DO WE JUST RULE THAT OUT COMPLETELY AND WANT TO STAY ON THE SIDELINES?

A: NO, I WOULDN'T WANT TO RULE IT OUT, BUT I DO NOT KNOW WHAT OUR SPECIFIC POSITION WOULD BE TO THIS REPORT THAT YOU GAVE ME HERE. I WOULD WANT TO CHECK IT OUT AND SEE. BUT I DON'T THINK ONE WOULD RULE IT OUT IF WE WERE ASKED TO BECOME A PARTY. BUT I HAVE NEVER HEARD -- I DID NOT SEE THE REPORT. THAT IS WHY I CAN'T BE MORE DEFINITIVE.

Q: WOULDN'T THAT GO TO THE QUESTION OF WHAT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE ARE OF THE MEETING IN GENEVA? DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THEY ARE STICKING IN THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THAT MEETING TO THE 1960 TREATY, IN WHICH CASE THE UNITED STATES WOULD HAVE NO PLACE?

A: THAT'S RIGHT. IF THOSE ARE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

AND THEY STICK, THEN THE UNITED STATES IS NOT A PARTY,
AND I DO NOT KNOW ---

Q: YOU DON'T KNOW WHETHER THOSE ARE NECESSARILY
THE TERMS OF REFERENCE?

A: AS OF THE TIME THAT THE BRITISH ISSUED THE INVITATION

TO COME AND NEGOTIATE, THOSE WERE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE.
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Q: WILL CYPRUS BE REPRESENTED AT THIS CONFERENCE?

A: TO MY KNOWLEDGE, NO.

Q: COULD YOU CLEAR SOMETHING UP? THE SECRETARY SAID
YESTERDAY, IF I UNDERSTOOD HIM CORRECTLY, THAT WE HAD
BEEN ASKED TO HELP IN THE EVACUATION OF SOME RUSSIANS ON
THE ISLAND OF CYPRUS. TODAY AT THE PENTAGON THE PENTAGON
SPOKESMAN SAID THAT HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT SUCH A REQUEST,
AND THAT, IN FACT, THERE HAD BEEN NO
REQUEST. HAS THERE BEEN SUCH A REQUEST?

A: LET ME SEE IF THERE'S ANYTHING NEW ON THAT. THE
THING IS I DO KNOW THAT THE RUSSIANS INFORMED US THAT
THEY WERE PLANNING TO EVACUATE SOME OF THEIR CITIZENS ON
CYPRUS. AND AS TO THE SPECIFIC QUESTION OF WHETHER
THEY'VE ASKED US TO HELP THEM OR NOT I WILL CHECK INTO.
I BELIEVE THAT THERE WAS SOME INDICATION OF THAT. IF
THERE HADN'T BEEN, THE SECRETARY I DON'T THINK WOULD
HAVE MENTIONED IT. BUT I'LL CHECK IT.

Q: YOU MENTIONED LAST WEEK THAT THERE HAD BEEN
TWO CONTACTS BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND THE NEWLY NAMED
CYPRIOT FOREIGN MINISTER, DIMITRIOU, THE SECOND ONE
INVOLVING VISAS. HAVE THERE BEEN ANY MORE CONTACTS
BETWEEN AMBASSADOR DAVIES OR HIS AIDES AND THE CYPRIOTS?

A: I RECALL NO OTHER CONTACTS, SAY, BETWEEN THE FOREIGN
MINISTER AND DAVIES, ABOUT ANY FURTHER INITIATIVES BY
THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO SEE DAVIES. BUT HERE AGAIN LET
ME TAKE THAT IN CASE MY MEMORY HAS FAILED ME, BUT I DON'T
RECALL ANY.

Q FOR INSTANCE, IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO KNOW IF ANY-
BODY HAS TALKED TO MR. CLERIDES DIRECTLY BEFORE HIS
APPOINTMENT.

A I HAVE NO REPORT OF THAT AT ALL. I'VE SEEN NOTHING.
I CAN TELL YOU THAT NOW WITHOUT CHECKING.

Q ARE THE SAMPSON PEOPLE STILL IN NEW YORK?
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A:I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHETHER THEY ARE OR NOT.
EN QUOTE KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, RECOGNITION, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL SITUATION, NEGOTIATIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE159834
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter:
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D740199-0803
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740789/abbryzsd.tel
Line Count: 278
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2002 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <23 JAN 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - CYPRUS
TAGS: PFOR, CY, US
To: ALL NATO CAPITALS
HELSINKI
ISTANBUL
MOSCOW
NICOSIA
USUN N Y

STOCKHOLM
VIENNA INFO USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH
EUCOM

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005